

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 008304
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DRAFTED BY NEA:MSTERNER:BH
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S/ SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 008304

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADORS EILTS AND LEWIS FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, EG, IS, US

SUBJECT: AGENDA: NEXT STEPS
WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

1. IN LIGHT OF TEL AVIV'S 479, WE ARE ASSESSING WHAT OUR
NEXT STEPS SHOULD BE. BEFORE TAKING ANY FURTHER ACTION WITH
EITHER ISRAELIS OR EGYPTIANS, WE WILL WANT TO CONSULT
SECRETARY, WHO IS OUT OF TOWN ON SPEAKING TRIP. IN MEAN-
TIME, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE, BY OPENING OF BUSINESS
WASHINGTON TIME, JANUARY 12, YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS
WITH RESPECT TO OUR NEXT STEPS.

2. IT IS OUR THOUGHT THAT IF WE ARE TO APPROACH SADAT
WITH SOMETHING ALONG LINES OF WHAT SAM HAS INFORMALLY DIS-
CUSSED WITH BEGIN WE SHOULD DO SO IN TERMS OF SAYING THIS
OUR OWN REFORMULATION IN THE LIGHT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH
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BEGIN. YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE POINT TO SADAT THAT OUR
PURPOSE HAS BEEN TO TRY TO REDUCE AGENDA TO SIMPLE AND
NEUTRAL TERMS; WE COULD THEN SAY THAT IN LIGHT OF OUR CON-
VERSATION WITH BEGIN WE DECIDED FOR SAKE OF REACHING QUICK
AGREEMENT, TO CARRY PROCESS ONE STEP FURTHER. PRESUMABLY
WE WOULD FIRST WANT TO ASSURE OURSELVES BEGIN COULD ACCEPT
SUCH REFORMULATION.

3. ON SAM'S SUGGESTED REVISION FOR ITEMS (A), ONLY PROBLEM WE SEE WITH DROPPING CLAUSE BEGINNING "SUCH A DECLARATION..." IS THAT TERM "PEACE TREATIES" COULD THEN BE CONSTRUED AS BASIS FOR DROPPING FROM INCLUSION IN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ANY REFERENCE TO PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, SINCE BEGIN HAS TAKEN POSITION THAT THERE IS NO ONE TO SIGN "TREATY" ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. AT MINIMUM THEREFORE, POINT(A) SHOULD PROBABLY BE REVISED EITHER (1) TO DROP WORD "TREATIES", OR TO SUBSTITUTE FOR "PEACE TREATIES" PHRASE "A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT". IT COULD BE POINTED OUT TO ISRAELIS THAT TERM "TREATY" ALREADY APPEARS IN POINT (C).

4. POINT (B) AS SAM PROPOSES TO WORD IT IS REDUCED TO THE POINT OF ALMOST SAYING NOTHING. I QUESTION WHETHER WE CAN GET BY WITHOUT SOME EXPLICIT MENTION OF PALESTINIANS OR WEST BANK/GAZA PROBLEM SOMEWHERE IN AGENDA, PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS WILL IN FACT BE WHAT TALKS HAVE TO FOCUS ON. I WOULD THINK (B) WOULD AT A MINIMUM HAVE TO BE EXPANDED BY ADDING THE PHRASE "... RELATING TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA". IF EGYPTIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT OMISSION OF LANGUAGE THAT WOULD PERMIT DISCUSSION OF REFUGEE PROBLEM, WE COULD POINT OUT THAT THIS SUBJECT COULD LOGICALLY BE INCLUDED UNDER (C) BECAUSE OF REFERENCE TO PRINCIPLES OF SC RESOLUTION 242.

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5. ITEM (C) SEEMS TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES.

6. WE NEED TO HAVE FIRST, HERMANN'S JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER THIS MIGHT BE SALEABLE TO SADAT; SECOND, SAM'S JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER BEGIN/DAYAN COULD BUY AMENDMENTS WHICH IN OUR VIEW ARE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM NEEDED TO MAKE AGENDA ACCEPTABLE TO SADAT; AND THIRD, ADVICE FROM BOTH OF YOU AS TO THE BEST TACTICS TO PURSUE IN MAKING OUR FUTURE APPROACHES.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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